WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An integrated document management system comprising:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical

5   structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version number of each document;

10   a server connected to said storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents; and

a client connected via a network to said server and retrieves, by accessing said server, a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer each having a specified

15   version number from the document database according to the management information.

2.   The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes a

20   collection of a plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating each version number of the plurality of documents, and said client retrieves a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number from the document database according to the management information by accessing

25   said server.

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3.   The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said server registers, when a document registered in the document database is updated, the updated document in the document database, and also updates the version

5   number information in the management information concerning the document.

4.   The integrated document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said client sends retrieval information for

10   a retrieved document via the network to said server, and said server sends, when a document corresponding to the retrieval information is updated, updating information concerning the updated document via the network to said client.

15   5.   The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents and said server permits or inhibits retrieval of the document in correspondence to the

20   security level.

6.   A document retrieval device used in an integrated document management system having

      a storage unit which stores therein a document database

25   consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical

structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version

5   number of each document; and

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents, wherein

said document retrieval device retrieves a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer in a specified

10   version number from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server via the network.

7.   The document retrieving device according to Claim 6;

15   wherein the management information includes a collection of a plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document

20   database according to the management information.

8.   The document retrieval device according to Claim 6, wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the

25   plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from

the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

9. A computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein, the document retrieval program used in an integrated document management system having,

a storage unit which stores therein a document database consisting of a plurality of documents based on a hierarchical structure and a management information database consisting of information indicating a relation between a document in an upper layer and a document in a lower layer and a plurality of management information including information on a version number of each document; and

a server connected to the storage unit and provided with the manager of the documents, wherein

the document retrieval program used for making a computer access said server via a network to retrieve a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer in a specified version number from the document database according to the management information.

10. The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9; wherein the management information includes a collection of a

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plurality of documents on the same layer and information indicating a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are

5 retrieved from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server.

11. The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9,

10 wherein the management information includes information concerning a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security

15 level.